Subject: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by MRikki on Sat, 09 Jan 2021 22:55:55 GMT
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My niece (age seven) is really wanting to learn an instrument. My sister lives in an apartment building and is worried about bothering neighbors, as they have neighbors both above and below them. But, she also wants to encourage her daughter's budding musical interest. What instruments should I steer my sister towards?

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Madison on Mon, 11 Jan 2021 16:46:36 GMT
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A keyboard. I play a few instruments myself and I teach lessons to children. I think the keyboard is the easiest instrument to learn over webcam or through video tutorials. Something like that might be important to your sister since we're still in the middle of a pandemic. Plus, you can turn the volume up or down on a keyboard and you can even use headphones so no sound leaks out to the neighbors.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by KalebTheAudioGuy on Wed, 13 Jan 2021 05:53:41 GMT
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What about an acoustic guitar? It was my first instrument and my family was in a similar living situation as your niece. There are lots of videos on YouTube that can help her get started playing! :)

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Strum Drum on Wed, 13 Jan 2021 19:33:49 GMT
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I think it's best just to let your niece pick. Most instruments can be played softly. It's a matter of controlling the technique. If the neighbors are fussy she could dampen the noise with mutes or pads. If percussion is her thing, then steer her towards one of the quieter kits. You can get low-volume cymbals and drum pads to help minimize the volume. Or just replace the heads with mesh heads. There are also different techniques for holding the drumsticks that affect the volume, or she could use brushes instead.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by penguin89 on Sun, 24 Jan 2021 02:05:46 GMT
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Strum Drum wrote on Wed, 13 January 2021 13:33I think it's best just to let your niece pick. Most instruments can be played softly. It's a matter of controlling the technique. If the neighbors are fussy she could dampen the noise with mutes or pads. If percussion is her thing, then steer her towards one of the quieter kits. You can get low-volume cymbals and drum pads to help minimize the volume. Or just replace the heads with mesh heads. There are also different techniques for holding the drumsticks that affect the volume, or she could use brushes instead.
I think that letting her pick her own instrument is a good way to keep her interested in playing. When I was younger, my parents decided I would learn to play the piano. What I really wanted was to learn to play the violin. I lost interest in the piano pretty quickly. As Strum Drum said, there are ways to dampen the sound of her playing. I hope she has fun learning to play!

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 25 Jan 2021 02:32:40 GMT
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Hi, I agree with the let them pick the instrument. I was forced to do piano as a kid and forever resented it. I cringe even now when I see one. One of my daughters did go for music (the other is a rocket scientist ...literally). She picked, flute, piccolo and acoustic guitar. The guitar didn't go very far, but she was seated first flute in the band for several years.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Strum Drum on Sun, 31 Jan 2021 05:03:19 GMT
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I think that once a large investment has been made in an instrument like a piano, the attitude is that every child in the family must learn how to play it. Pianos are costly, they're a pain to move, they require tuning, and they take up a lot of floor space. So for many parents, it's all about making the investment worth it. It's a shame too. I know so many people who hated their weekly piano lessons.

@gofar99, would you have been more enthusiastic if the music was different or was there just no interest in the instrument itself?

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Rusty on Sun, 31 Jan 2021 13:40:56 GMT
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I would of been glad to had any instrument training when young. Folks had a tight budget with 5 kids. A large traditional piano would be too expensive and impractical for most young parents. But someone mentioned an electronic keyboard that headphones can be used even. Sounds ideal to me.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Acacia on Tue, 23 Feb 2021 18:29:12 GMT
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The guitar is a classic choice and it wouldn't bother the neighbors as long as it's not connected to a speaker. There's also the flute and violin which are leaned on producing soothing sounds. On the other hand, you can first ask your niece her preferred instrument and judge if it's too much.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by sammi40 on Tue, 09 Mar 2021 23:45:25 GMT
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Wow, I pity the neighbors! Seriously though, what does the child show interest in? My daughter played the flute, she was horrible! I think piano lessons outside the home would be a great place to start!

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Raymond on Wed, 10 Mar 2021 03:30:54 GMT
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This one isn't necessarily quiet, but what about a recorder? It's easy for kids to learn, inexpensive and portable. I played the recorder as a kid and I really enjoyed it. In high school, I moved from playing the recorder to playing the clarinet. The recorder is a good starter instrument, in my opinion.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by noodle on Sun, 13 Jun 2021 22:25:25 GMT
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I also agree that it's good to let the child pick which instrument to learn. But if you're right next to neighbors or have thin walls, I'd also suggest a keyboard (or guitar) with headphones.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by poulsenr85 on Tue, 21 Sep 2021 16:11:26 GMT
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In general, the mandolin is designed only for certain styles of music, so if you want to buy it and learn to play it, you must be clear about the need for it.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids

Posted by poulsenr85 on Wed, 22 Sep 2021 20:45:48 GMT
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In general, the mandolin is designed only for certain styles of music, so if you want to buy it and learn to play it, you must be clear about the need for it. The wood is critical here because the holes in the soundboard are often tiny. When buying a mandolin, you should pay attention to the overtones and comfort because the first thing you should be worried about in a musical instrument is whether it is comfortable for you to play it; only if you meet this condition, you will achieve mastery. When I chose this musical instrument, I trusted the advice of my musician friend. Initially .Originally going to save money and buy this musical instrument is not new, but I was dissuaded in time, and then I visit site and saw a good mandolin.

Subject: Re: Best Instrument for Kids
Posted by Kingfish on Sun, 26 Sep 2021 05:48:59 GMT
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Buy her a drum kit. Forget the neighbors. :lol:

Actually, you might want to start simple and get a bass guitar. She can learn the basics while not making a lot of noise.